5 DEC 42
C.R. 38

LIBRARY

LIBRARY

URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDLINGTONSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1939.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28914399

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of Bedlingtonshire.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1939 relating to the sanitary circumstances and the health of the urban district.

This report is arranged in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circulars 1961 and 2067 in which is pointed out the desirability of curtailing as much as possible the annual report during the period of the war.

The long looked for transition from a Medical Officer permitted to engage in private practice to one debarred by the terms of his appointment from so doing, took place with my appointment to the Medical Officership on 1st October, 1939.

With the declaration of War, an intesification of effort was called for in the organisation of the Casualty Services and the sudden influx of these additional responsibilities imposed an ever increasing pressure of work on the Public Health Department.

Hence much of the matter which customarily appeared in previous reports has been omitted, only that which is deemed essential being retained.

The compilation of this report has been brought about by the collaboration of the officers in charge of sub departments discharging special functions, namely Dr. A.G. Oglivie and Dr. B.B. Noble, the latter of whom was my predecessor in office as the part-time Medical Officer of Health.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Bedlingtonshire

May, 1942.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDLINGTONSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1939.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.) Medical Officer M. & C.W..) Authority, Sunlight Clinic)	James Angus, M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H. (appointed 1st Oct. 1939)
Medical Officer Infectious) Diseases Hospital.....)	B. B. Noble, M.B., B.S. (relinquished appointment 30th Sept. 1939)
Obstetrical Consultants	E. Farquhar Murray, M.D., F.R.C.S. H. H. Evers, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S. F. E. Stabler M.D., F.R.C.S.
Pediatrician.....	A. G. Oglivie, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Dental Officer.....	N. Walker, L.D.S.
Sanitary) Meat) Inspector	R. M. Laverick, M.S.I.A.
Health and Child Protection Visitors	Miss E. Crowe, S.R.N., S.C.M. Mrs. J. Jackson, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Clerk Typist	Miss I. Kidd.
Offices	Front Street, Bedlington.
M.C.W. Centre and Sunlight Clinic	Guide Post, Choppington.
Infectious Diseases Hospital	Staithes Quay, Bedlington Station.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BEDLINGTONSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, in acres - 9,025.784.

Registrar General's estimate of
(a) Resident population mid 1939 27330
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 27250

Area comparability factor is..... 1.16

Rateable value - £98387

Sum represented by a penny rate - £377. 8. 5.

Number of inhabited houses (Dec. 1939) -

Vital Statistics.

Births :-

Live Births.	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.....	406	206	200
Illegitimate.....	13	4	9

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 15.33

Still Births	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate.....	15	3	12
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 34.56

Deaths:-

Total	Male	Female
311	165	146

Death Rate per 1,000 of the average population - 11.4
Death Rate multiplied by areal comparability factor - 13.224

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.3
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	1	2.3
Total	2	4.6

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	66.67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	68.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

The Registrar General supplies the following:-

CAUSES OF DEATHS 1939.

	Causes of Death.	Male	Female.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2.	Measles	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	2	1
6.	Influenza	2	-
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	3	11
10.	Other Tuberculosis	1	5
11.	Syphilis	-	-
12.	General Paralysis of insane Tabes etc.	1	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease.	19	16
14.	Diabetes	-	4
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	9
16.	Heart Disease	41	36
17.	Aneurysm	-	-
18.	Other circulatory disease.	12	6
19.	Bronchitis	3	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2
21.	Other respiratory disease.	1	2
22.	Peptic Ulcer.	1	-
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1
24.	Appendicitis	-	-
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
26.	Other liver diseases	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases.	4	4
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	7
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	-	1
30.	Other puerperal causes	-	1
31.	Con. deb: prem. birth, etc.	10	6
32.	Senility	10	6
33.	Suicide	1	1
34.	Other violence	13	7
35.	Other defined diseases	19	17
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	-
37.	Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	-	-
		165	146
		Total ..	311

		Male	Female
Deaths of infants Under 1 year.	Legitimate	17	11
	Illegitimate ..	-	-
	Totals	17	11
Live Births.	Legitimate	206	200
	Illegitimate ..	4	9
	Totals	210	209
Still Births.	Legitimate	3	12
	Illegitimate ..	-	-
	Totals	3	12

INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1939.

Causes of death	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 yr.
Diarrhoea & enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	3	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4
Atrophy, debility Marasmus	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Con: malformations	3	-	-	1	4	3	-	-	-	7
Atalectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Injury at birth	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Pink Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Convulsions	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other causes	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	4
Totals	13	2	-	1	16	5	2	1	3	27

No deaths were registered as being due to:- Measles, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Meningitis (Tubercular) Abdominal Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Meningitis (Non-Tubercular)

CANCER AND SARCOMA MORTALITY.

Cancer	Males 20-	30-	45-	55-	65-	Tot.	Females 20-	30-	45-	55-	65-	Tot.
Jaw(lower)	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tongue	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stomach	-	1	1	1	3	6	-	-	-	2	3	5
Liver	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Colon	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	2	4
Prostate	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scrutum	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mamma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Vulva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lungs	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	-	1	3	6	8	18	-	2	1	6	7	16
Sarcoma	-	Nil										

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The number of specimens submitted was 690, as follows:-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS.

DURING THE YEAR 1939.

		Pos.	Neg.	Total.
C.C.T.O.	Tubercle Sputa	3	43	46
Medical Practitioners.	do	2	88	90
M.O.H. Bedlington.	Swabs for C. Diphtheria	23	363	386
Medical Practitioners.	do	39	98	137
Medical Practitioners.	Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococcus	1	2	3
M.O.H. Bedlington	Enteric Fever (Blood)	-	7	7

Medical Practitioners.	Enteric Fever (Blood)	2	5	7
M.O.H. Bedlington	Enteric Fever (Faeces & Urine)	-	12	12
Medical Practitioners	Cerebro Spinal Fluid	-	2	2

Ambulance Facilities.

The Shire is amply covered so far as these facilities are concerned. The vehicles available are as follows:-

	No. of vehicles.
Bedlington Colliery Ambulance Van Association.	2
Cambois Miners Welfare Ambulance Association.	1
Choppington Colliery Welfare	1
Netherton Colliery Welfare	2

Nursing in the Home.

	No. of Nurses.
Bedlington District Nursing Association.	2
Cambois District Nursing Association.	1
Choppington District Nursing Association.	1
Netherton District Nursing Association.	1
Sleekburn District Nursing Association.	2
West Sleekburn and Stakeford Nursing Association.	1.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

There is in the Shire a Maternity & Child Welfare and Sunray Clinic, in the latter of which U V.L. treatment is obtainable. In addition to the ordinary clinics for babies, there are separate clinics run for children aged from two to five years.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There is a three ward Infectious Diseases Hospital belonging to the Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council, each ward having eight beds. It is, nevertheless, necessary to send some of the more serious types of infectious disease to the City I.D. Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

There are no public or voluntary general hospitals within the district, and it is usual for cases requiring hospitalisation with patient treatment to be removed to the large general and specialist hospitals in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centres. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons of each week.

Attendances of mothers and children up to two years of age ... 3109

This year (by recommendation of the Ministry of Health) Dr. Ogilvie, Infant Consultant, attends the Maternity & Child Welfare Centres twice monthly instead of once, as in previous years. The mothers have appreciated and used this opportunity. Two children were sent to the Babies Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, some to Sanderson's Home (Orthopaedic): others to the Royal Victoria Infirmary for treatment, and quite a number to our Sun Ray Clinic for treatment, directly after being examined by Dr. Ogilvie.

Dried Milks and Vitamins.

No. of application forms for free Dried Milks and Vitamins considered by the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee	238
Dried Milks - Free Supply	2,874 lbs.
Dried Milks - At Cost Price	4,406 lbs.
Virol, Numol, Cod Liver Oil and Emulsion - Free Supply	423 (½ lbs& oils 10oz)
Virol, Numol, Cod Liver Oil and Emulsion - At Cost Price	1,531 (do.)
Total quantity of Dried Milks supplied during the year to expectant and nursing mothers, and young children	7,280 lbs.
Total quantity of vitamins	1,954 lbs.

Clinics for the pre-school child aged two to five years.

Attendances of children two to five years old	171
Combined total of attendances at Maternity & Child Welfare & Toddlers Clinic	3,280

Each child is examined by the Medical Officer of Health, many being sent for Dental Treatment to our Dental Clinic for pre-school children, others for Sun Ray Treatment. Parents of children who have enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids are given the advantage of having the operation performed in hospitals at a small charge, the Local Authority being responsible for the full cost.

Dental Clinic.- one session monthly.

For Expectant Mothers and Pre-school children.

Total number of attendances - expectant mothers	6
Total number of attendances - pre-school children	88
Number of administrations of general anaesthesia	40

The Dental Clinic was started in May, 1937. We hope by another year it will be used more. Of the 12 expectant mothers who had cards for Dental Clinic, only 6 came. Of the 96 Toddlers needing treatment 88 attended.

Sunray Clinic. Tuesday morning, Friday afternoon, weekly.

Number of attendances, Adults, Children and Infants 1,562

Report of Sun Ray Officer.

I beg to submit a report on the work of your Sun Ray Clinic for the year 1939.

Patients are received either on the recommendation of their private Doctors, or on that of one or other of the Medial Officers in charge of the Babies or Toddlers Clinics. I am glad to state that all these have continued to make free use of the clinic during the year.

In all 116 patients received treatment during the year, their distribution as to age being shown in the following table:-

Under 5 years of age	66
School age	42
Women	8
Total	116

Below is a table showing the scope of disease treated, together with the results of treatment. Many under the heading "improved" are still undergoing treatment.

Disease	Cured.	Improved	No benefit	Totals.
Skin disease.	22	7	2	31
Adenitis	16	3	2	21
Disorders of Nutrition including Rickets	24	13	9	46
Tubercle	3	-	-	3
Convalescent Cases	4	-	-	4
Eye conditions (e.g. Phlyctenular Conjunctivitis)	1	1	1	3
Pulmonary conditions	1	-	2	3
Ante-Natal	-	1	-	1
Unclassified	-	3	1	4
Total	71	28	17	116

I wish to place on record my high appreciation of the work of the clinic staff, and my deep regret at the loss during the year of the valuable and loyal services of Nurses Davies and Urquhart by their retirement, after so many years of devoted and faithful service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

B.B. NOBLE M.B., B.S.

Report of the Child Welfare Medical Officer for 1939.

Since the last Annual Report our new Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Angus, has taken over the duties of his extensive area, and I would like to take this opportunity of wishing him success.

So far, the outbreak of war has not affected the work of the clinic in any way.

During 1939 very satisfactory progress was in fact made. In my last report I stressed the importance of securing the confidence and co-operation of the mothers; and the attendances and results this year give ground for the belief that this is being satisfactorily achieved. During the year there were 434 attendances at my clinic, which is a satisfactory increase.

There are also signs that the campaign to increase the incidence of breast feeding is bearing fruit.

The importance of detecting early signs of tuberculosis in infants and young children, especially among those in contact with infection, is constantly considered, and frequent tuberculin tests are a definite part of the work of the clinic. The incidence locally is not unduly high, but that only increases the chance of overlooking cases.

Full use of the valued facilities for dental treatment, and for prevention of deafness is made.

Once again I must emphasise the value to our clinic of the willing co-operation of the doctors in the district, and my satisfaction at the use which is made of its facilities.

The work of our Health Visitors, who are untiring in their efforts, requires special mention. Child Welfare work depends to a vital extent upon the tactful and persistent help of the Health Visitors.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A.G. OGILVIE,

M.D., M.R.C.P.

Ante-Natal Clinics. Three sessions monthly.

The seven local practitioners who started duty in October 1937, under the panel system are still attending. Post Natal cases can be examined immediately after each Ante-Natal Clinic is finished.

Number of women who attended	81
Number of attendances	156

Health Visitor's Report.

Number of births registered in Bedlingtonshire	406
Males 206: Females 200	
Illegitimate births (included in above total)	13
Males 4: Females 9	
Number of still-births	15
Males 3: Females 12.	
Two sets of twin births were notified during the year.	
Births notified from Princess Mary Maternity Hospital ..	18
Births notified from other Nursing Homes	3
Number of children who left the U.D. of Bedlingtonshire.	18
Number of inward transfers of children to the U.D. of Bedlingtonshire ..	14
Deaths registered under one year	28
This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of	66.7

Visits.

Visits paid to Ante-Natal cases	105
First visits, births	448
Sub-visits under one year	2,072
To children between the ages of one and five years ...	3,547
For results of Tuberculin tests	5
For strapping of umbilical hernia	53
To home helps	12

Visits to Infectious Diseases.

Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (with treatment)	-
Epidemic Diarrhoea	-
Diphtheria	135
Number of swabs	663
Scarlet Fever	11
Combined total of visits	6,405

Child Life Protection.

Public Health Act 1936, Sections 206 - 220.

Number on the Register during 1939....	3

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water - The district continues to be supplied from the Tynemouth Water Company. It is constant and of good quality, has been well maintained, being continually under pressure.

At intervals water mains have been extended to reach the various new properties during the course of erection so as to supply each house individually.

Private services have been laid within many existing older class properties which solely depended upon a common street water supply. The areas affected being West Sleekburn and Cambois. Repairs to existing service have been completed in different parts of the Shire.

(11) Drainage and Sewerage - The chief sewerage systems empty into Tidal Waters, being previously screened.

There are no purification plants within the district. No new schemes for sewerage disposal have been carried out; but branch services from existing main sewers have been laid for the purpose of draining all new properties.

Additional drainage has been provided principally where the water supply has been introduced within the older class properties abolishing many lengths of open channels. Wash up sinks and wastes have been fixed at this class of property.

2. Rivers and Streams - No action has been necessary to check pollution in the non-tidal portions.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation - Almost the whole of the district is served by the Water Carriage System with the exception of a few isolated buildings situated beyond the reach of any water borne sewage system.

It has not been necessary for any conversions to take place, although additional water closets have been built in nine instances.

Structual repairs have been carried out frequently to existing closets, and several new waste water preventors fixed.

(11) Public Cleansing - The scavenging of house refuse is done by contractors. Twenty eight sections are in operation throughout the district. These are situated so as to reduce the distance of transport to a minimum.

The disposal Depots consist mainly of clay excavation pits, although in some localities depressions of land have been filled in, and re-claimed. The work has been done satisfactorily. Cesspools cleansing has not come under any attention by the Local Authority, for where such receptacles exist the work is completed by the occupier.

Total cost of cleansing	£4,644.	0.	0.
Cost per house per annum		11.	10.

(111)
Sanitary Inspection of Area

T.S.

	No. of Inspections during Year.	No of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No. outstanding from previous year.	Total.	No remedied after letter or interview.	No of Statutory Notices Served.	Defects remedied there after	In progress or being dealt with.
Housing.								
Structural Defects.								
Defective Food-store								
Dampness.	569	219	56	275	226	18	18	31
Overcrowding.								
Nuisances.								
Water Supply.								
Insufficient.	64	64		64	64			
Unsatisfactory.								
Drainage.								
Insufficient.	128	128		128	128			
Defective.	51	51		51	51			
Sanitary Conveniences.								
Insufficient.	9	9		9	9			
Defective.	61	61		61	61			
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	28	28		22	22			
Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.	313	21		21	21			
Slaughter Houses.	241	9		9	9			
Tents, Vans, etc.	7	2		2	2			
Offensive Trades.	3	2		2	2			
Factories.	103	21		21	21			
Keeping of Animals.	13	13		13	13			
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles.	71	71		71	71			
Ashpits improperly used.	13	13		13	13			
Offensive Accumulations.	9	9		9	9			
Smoke Nuisances.	1	1		1	1			
Petrol Stores.	-	-		-	-			
Totals.....	1684	722	56	772	723	18	18	31

Sub-joined are the details of Housing Repairs included in "Structural defects" in the preceding table.

Nature of work.	No. Repaired.	No. Renewed.
Roofs and Ridges.	89	-
Chimney Stacks.	7	7
Spouting and face pipes.	226	93
Main Walling.	25	-
Window sashes and frames.	65	63
Doors and frames.	64	35
Flooring.	27	57
Wall plaster (rooms.)	44	56
Ceilings.	39	51
Skirtings.	31	54
Chimney Breasts.	317	-
Ranges and Coppers.	32	12
Foodstores.	31	-
Staircases.	13	9
Yards and outbuildings.	17	8
	727	445

(V) Camping Sites.

(1) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes. 1.

(2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. -

(3) The estimated number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season. 13

No continuous camping site exists. In one area situated at Sheepwash a patch of ground became unknowingly inhabited as shown above. These campers were removed as speedily as possible owing to the lack of sanitary conveniences and of a sufficient water supply. After interviewing the landlord and these holders no trouble was experienced in carrying out their removal.

(V1) Smoke Abatement. - No action has been put into operation.

(V11) Swimming Baths and Pools. - An open air public bath is situated at Humford Mill. The water is received from the Blyth River and is continuously cleansed by Chlorination.

(V111) Eradication of Bed Bugs. -

(1) (a) The number of Council Houses infested. 13.
(b) Other houses found infested 18.
All disinfected.

(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses is by fumigators with Sulphur dioxide following the general spraying with Sol. B or Kolium insecticide.

(3) Previous to the tenants being removed to Council houses the furniture and clothing is subjected to the process of disinfestation, and all clothing and bedding are treated in the steam disinfector situated within the grounds of the Council's Hospital.

(4) All work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

(5) There are no measures taken to prevent re-infestation unless appeal is made to the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Schools. - The Sanitary arrangements and Water supply of schools continue to be satisfactory. The Water carriage system is established at all schools and the water supply is direct from all Council mains.

Periodically the buildings are fumigated and disinfected. The refuse collection is carried out at regular intervals.

Section D. Housing.

During the year and up to the time of the completion of this report all the occupants displaced from the various confirmed Clearance Areas within the vicinities of Guide-Post, Scotland Gate, Choppington and Bedlington have been removed, to the allocated Housing schemes; whereas in other parts of the district the tenants of unfit individual houses have also been found the required housing accommodation.

The number of houses dealt with . 287.

Further Inspection of Dwellings.

Within the area of Netherton 163 houses were inspected, scheduled, and declared to be only fit for clearance. So far as these properties were concerned, although visited by the Inspector of the Ministry all further action had to be suspended on account of the present crisis.

Many dwellings came under a survey for the purpose of Clearance within the areas of Glebe Row, Bedlington, Moorland Cotts, Red Row., Bedlington Station., Boca Chica, Cambois, and North and Middle Row., Stakeford. Here again all further proceedings had to be abandoned.

Confirmed unfit houses still remain inhabited at Old Red Row., and Netherton Village until alternative accommodation for the tenants become available.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....569
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....731
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932..233
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....316
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....18
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....201

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....188

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections, 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. -
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- -
(a) By owners
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
(a) By owners.....18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. -

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....18
(2) Numbers of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....12

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-
(1) Number of separate tenements of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... -
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... -

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	837
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	864
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	4,296
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	-
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	148
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	822
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	-
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to over-crowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	-

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply:-

Number of Producers.	40.
Number of Non-produced retailers.	9.
Pasteurized Retailers.	7.
T.T. Milk purveyors.	3.
Accredited Milk Producers.	41.

Regular inspections have been made to the premises. All Pasteurized & T.T. Milks come from the outside districts. Samples have been taken from 37 herds and subjected to Laboratory Tests for ascertaining cleanliness and the detection of tuberculosis.

Coliform Test.	27 instances	-	Not present.
" " "	2 " "	-	Present in 1 Tube.
" " "	1 " "	-	" " 2 tubes.
" " "	7 " "	-	" " 3 tubes.

Methylene Blue Test.	25 instances	-	Satisfactory.
" " " "	1 " "	-	Reduction took place in 1 hr.
" " " "	1 " "	-	" " " " 2 hrs.
" " " "	4 " "	-	" " " " 2½ hrs.
" " " "	1 " "	-	" " " " 3 hrs.
" " " "	1 " "	-	" " " " 4 hrs.
" " " "	1 " "	-	" " " " 4½ hrs.
" " " "	1 " "	-	" " " " 5 hrs.
" " " "	2 " "	-	" " " " 5½ hrs.

Cowsheds and Dairies - Repairs and Improvements.

(84) Red Row Farm - No. 1 Shed.

The flooring taken up and renewed with concrete.
Tubular partitions fixed replacing woodwork.
Channelled and drained.
Bram filled at eaves internally.
Internal walls cement rendered throughout, from floor line to eaves.
Automatic drinking fountains provided.
New concrete feeding troughs laid.
Six hopper windows fixed and two new doors.
Ventilators completed at ridge.
Bib cocks fixed within shed.

No. 2 Shed.

The flooring taken up and renewed by concrete.
Tubular partitions fixed replacing woodwork.
Channelled and drained.
Bram filled at eaves internally.
Internal walls cement rendered throughout from floor line to eaves.
New concrete feeding troughs laid.
Two new hopper windows fixed, and one door.
Ventilators fixed at ridge.
Automatic drinking fountains provided, and bib cock fixed within shed.

(85) West Sleekburn Farm.

New brickwork dairy built, water supply provided, with wash up sinks.
Steam Sterilizer fixed.

(86) Town Farm, East Sleekburn.

New dairy provided, water laid on premises, and wash up sink fixed. The drainage system has been renewed and extra sanitary conveniences built.

(87) North Farm, Choppington.

At two sheds the floors taken up and relaid with concrete channelled and drained.
Decayed wooden partitions taken out and substituted by faced concrete.
New concrete feeding troughs laid and additional lighting and ventilation provided.

(b) Meat and other foods:-

There are 16 private Slaughter Houses, and 1 Knackers Yard Regular visits have been carried out, the premises have been kept clean, and carcases dealt with have been of good quality.

Carcases inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed.	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	594	-	33	913	94
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was comdemned.	26	-	-	27	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	4.37	-	-	2.95	3.19.
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases comdemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was comdemned.	7	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.17	-	-	-	3.19.

Shell-Fish. (f)

There are a few shell-fish beds indiscriminately scattered within the estuary of the River Blyth. These are liable to pollution, and on account of this notices have been posted near each laying prohibiting the collection of such shell fish for human consumption.

Factories.

Works completed after notice:-

Area (a) - 1 water closet rebuilt.
" (b) - 2 water closets in each case new basins fixed and premises limewashed.
" (c) - 3 water closets cleansed and limewashed.
" (d) - 5 trough closets woodwork repaired and limewashed.
" (e) - 5 common latrines new doors and fasteners fixed, all seats renewed, artificial light provided, premises painted and limewashed.
" (f) - 4 premises water supply introduced sinks and wastes fixed, all cleansed and limewashed.
" (g) - Stove for heating provided.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital situated at Staithes Quay consists of three wards, each capable of accommodating 8 patients. It is seriously handicapped by the lack of quarters for permanent and temporary nursing staff. The only permanent staff are a porter-groundsman and his wife, who reside on the premises.

There is no ambulance, motor or horse-drawn, and patients are presently removed either by hired ambulance or car.

The number of cases admitted and treated in the Hospital during 1939 was 38.

Diphtheria - During the year there were notified 81 cases, of which 38, referred to above, were dealt with in the Hospital. There were 3 fatal cases.

Scarlet Fever. - There were notified 26 cases during the year, all of them having been treated at home.

Erysipelas - Seven cases were reported during the year.

Paratyphoid Fever - Two cases were notified and both were treated in Hospital.

Pneumonia - 23 cases were notified as having occurred in the Shire.

Puerperal Pyrexia - Two cases were recorded during the year.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Cerebro Spinal Fever or Dysentery notified during the year.

Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939, being provisional Regulations dated October 23rd, 1939, were made by the Minister and under these Regulations there were notified:-

Whooping Cough	2
Measles	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality During 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Respiratory. F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Respiratory. F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. M.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
5 -	2	3	2	3	-	-	-	1
15 -	3	2	-	1	2	3	-	-
25 -	1	1	-	1	1	3	-	-
35 -	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
45 -	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 -	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	-
65 and over.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	10	2	9	3	10	1	5

Non-notified deaths - 2. Total deaths - 19.

No action was found necessary under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172, P.H.A. 1936.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(Ministry of Health Table).

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	t'l notns	Adms to Hosp	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	-	1	2	3	3	13	1	1	1	1	-	-	26	-	-
Diphtheria	-	1	4	3	13	26	24	2	5	2	1	-	81	38	3
Enteric fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	1
Eyrsipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	7	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	1	1	2	4	-	1	2	3	5	2	23	-	7

The following Ministry of Health communications were sent to each Medical Practitioner in the district - The Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939 (102577) and Memo on Typhoid Fever, Memo 225/Med.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1939.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126C.Bs. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm: County
	Rate per 1,000 Population:-			
Live Births	15.0	14.8	15.33	12.3
Still "	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
Deaths:-				
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.41	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	C.D.R. 13.22	0.00
Small-pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
Notifications:-				
Small-pox	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-			
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	66.67	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	2.3	Not available.		
Others	2.3			
Total	4.6			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)			
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	Not available		
Others	2.08			
Total	2.82			
Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
" Pyrexia				14.22